



Lake County Coastal Plan Committee Minutes

June 20, 2012

The Lake County Coastal Plan Committee hereby finds and determines that all formal actions were taken in an open meeting of the Lake County Coastal Plan Committee and that all the deliberations of the Planning Commission and its committees, if any, which resulted in formal actions, were taken in meetings open to the public in full compliance with applicable legal requirements, including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Chairman Boyd called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. at the Lake County Planning Commission conference room in Painesville, Ohio. He welcomed Mark Alexander as a new Committee member representing the Painesville Township Park District.

ATTENDANCE

The following members were present: Messrs. Alexander, Allen, Cicero, Landeg, Martin, Reichard, Rising, Scruggs, Stephenson, and Welch. Staff present: Mr. Boyd and Ms. Myers. There were no visitors.

MINUTES

Mr. Allen moved to approve the November 30, 2011 minutes as submitted and Mr. Cicero seconded the motion.

All voted "Aye".

OLD BUSINESS

Madison Township Park

Mr. Boyd presented information that Madison Township Park and their portion of the State Capital 2009 funding of \$300,000 went towards beach creation. The beach is in and possibly performing too well according to the regulating agencies. They have three offshore breakwaters approximately 95-100 feet offshore. The sand fill forecasts were underestimated and the Township has moved sand from the west to the east to keep the sand from going all the way out to the breakwaters. The beach is getting a lot of use and is bringing new people to the waters just as all the research and other best practices that we indicated would happen in the Plan.

Once again, we are trying to get some clarification from the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers on the frequency and the rationale behind the why this is happening. One approach would be to determine how much this correlates to the North Perry project, if applicable. If the sand is indeed being captured in North Perry, even though it is a pretty good distance away, in addition to the distance of the offshore breakwaters, what is the explanation on the quantity and speed in which that sand continues to return to Madison Township Park at the end of Hubbard Road?

Stanton Park

Madison Township is concerned about how much money they should spend on Stanton Park based on the uncertainty of what the regulating agencies will mandate on moving sand since it would be a much more expensive proposition there because of topographic conditions. There is approximately \$500,000 remaining from the acquisition from the Federal Department of Transportation. We have been working with the County Engineer's Office to get this project on

NOACA's Transportation Improvement Plan to help with the engineering and future design and implementation of this site. A design firm was brought in to lay out the engineering for that site with initial hopes of setting the stage for the development. We have since run into interpretation issues on how these funds can be used. If used for engineering, the law reads you have to build it within ten years.

This scared the Township and the County who signed the State agreement with the Department of Transportation for the obligation of the Federal money. The Prosecutor said they could go forward but not to design anything that would cost more than the \$490,000, which greatly limits the project's scope. Mr. Landeg said a shoreline or an erosion control bluff protection plan could not be done for that amount.

Mr. Boyd stated Mr. Loftus has had some candid conversations with the development entity interested in this project on their level of responsibility, participation and comfort in moving forward. They still seem interested. The neighbor to the west of this project was granted an easement by the Township to access his site to perform some erosion protection construction and ran into a sand/clay soil combination that liquefies when the water hits it as explained by Mr. Landeg. The design firm has been put on hold.

There was some discussion about public funding handling the access portion of the project and private funding handling the offshore portion. Mr. Landeg stated that the cost of doing business when you have Federal obligation funds goes through the roof. It will cost \$27,000 just to get the geotechnical data needed to get a handle on the soils and one boring where the shore protection would eventually be designed at the shoreline. They checked into possibly using the sand for fracking to get some dollars for the project, but the sand was not of high enough quality.

NEW BUSINESS

Need for Clarification of Corps & ODNR Regulation Issues

Mr. Boyd stated, after talking to some people in other communities and because of what is happening between Madison Township and North Perry Village, everyone at the elected leader standpoint is afraid to do anything at public parks. This atmosphere may essentially stop the Coastal Plan if we don't take some kind of collective action to get some answers from the Corps on what the ground rules are for moving sand.

Mr. Allen's opinion was that the path forward would be to meet with the Corps until we can get a group that will listen to both scientific and actual experience and be able to refute the Corps agenda or lack of agenda. Barrier islands put into shallow water will build sand beyond themselves. Everything that has gone on is predictable and there is a remediation for these problems. There is a downstream improvement that could be made to rectify any upstream or backstream issues. There is a cost on this, but it is correctable.

The Army Corps of Engineers facilitated a meeting in Mentor next Wednesday, June 27, 2012, at the Mentor Harbor Yacht Club at 1:00 p.m. No one present had any knowledge of the reason for this unsolicited meeting request made to Mr. Loftus of the County Port Authority. There will be five representatives from Buffalo attending. Mr. Boyd would like to attend and show them the positive impact the development at the Madison Township Park is having. Mr. Boyd will ask Mr. Loftus to get a predefined itinerary from the Corps to see what they want from the Yacht Club, City, and the County so we could be prepared. Mr. Loftus was planning to ask them for an hour or two to get them to other sites throughout the County. Because of past meetings, he was not sure if those Corps people attending the meeting would know anything about the Fairport Harbor dredging situation.

There was some discussion on strategies and guidance to pursue with the regulatory agencies to, hopefully, get a clarification on the regulatory framework on offshore development and developing a strategy to move forward by getting to the right personnel concerning the Corps ground rules. Mr. Boyd was considering using an economic development twist on it because this is keeping the communities from developing. The Committee determined this would require a body larger than the County Commissioners or township and municipal personnel.

Mr. Boyd said he would request support letters from all stakeholders, including the elected officials, expressing concern with coastal initiatives and the lack of action. After receipt, he will schedule a meeting with Congressman LaTourette's office. He will also talk to Mr. Loftus to try to get a more definite agenda on what the Corps wants and relay it to the Mentor and Yacht Club folks.

Member Resignation

Lee Bodnar, who was the Painesville Township representative, took a new job as Administrator at Concord Township three or four months ago and has resigned. A request has been made to the Painesville Township Trustees for a new representative member, but we have not heard back from them yet.

Community Updates:

Painesville Twp. Park District – Mark Alexander: They have a steel wall that is essentially failing at the toe and have had to shut down the walkways going down to the Lake. They are losing part of their coast there and are looking for dollars for repairs. Mr. Boyd and the County Engineer was there last Fall looking for some ideas and they believe it would be a pricey fix. Mr. Boyd suggested they consider taking the wall down and putting in some offshore barriers.

Willowick City – Mark Rising: Their biggest development, Larimar, had decided on building three six-story buildings. They built one and found they are not selling as anticipated and seem to be going to two-story buildings along the Lake. The Willowick Planning Commission approved the rezoning from Shoregate Towers to just past 320th to multi-family instead of single-family. They are researching other communities' architectural review boards because they are concerned about the appearance of development along the lake.

Mentor City – Bob Martin: They were in the middle of an engineering phase for shoreline protection of about 500 feet on our west beach, which has gone away. It is in the Corps hands right now. They are just putting in a breakwall. CT Consultants' engineers had designed a trench breakwall, which, as soon as the water came in this past year, took all the rock out. They are within 50 feet of breaching the Lagoons.

Perry Township – Mark Welch: They are waiting to figure out what is going to go on with the regulations. Mr. Boyd said there is an erosion trend that needs to be stopped. There are breakwater designs in place that were done by Oxbow.

Mentor Harbor Yacht Club – Chuck Stephenson: It has been an interesting year at Mentor Harbor Yacht Club with a culmination of one or two problems they have. The major problem is that they have an 85-year old wall in the channel that needs \$2 million to repair it. The second problem, which greatly affected the City of Mentor, is that they had very little sand movement last year and this year. Normally, they have an average of 20,000 cubic yards per year and last year they dredged somewhere between 7-10,000 cubic yards and this year roughly 10,000 cubic yards. Sand is not building up on the west side of the channel and, therefore, is not coming into the channel to be dug up and put on the east side. There is no replenishment to the beaches to the east of them, which totally wiped out their

east beach. As a result, the City of Mentor is having to build a breakwall to keep the lake from breaking through into the Lagoons. The only solution they could afford was to take 5,000 yards of sand from the west beach and transport to the east beach for replenishment. If this trend continues, they will have to do something similar to what Mentor is doing. There is a lot of wave energy inside the channel. If the lake has four foot waves, the channel has six to eight foot waves.

Lake County Port Authority – Harry Allen: They announced that they were proceeding to go full fledged into the Coe brownfield site in Painesville. They had taken a step to enter into lease agreements with tenants and get some commitments for phase 2 dollars. They have a loan from Jobs Ohio to do the cleanup and hope the cleanup will come within the \$1.2 million they have received. They can make the decision to do as much as they have funds to cover. This should be a real economic benefit for the City of Painesville. They agreed to approve a couple resolutions on lease agreements.

Fairport Harbor Port Authority – Michael Scruggs: Currently, the Corps is working on the breakwall on the east side of the inlet. Several years ago they put in some precast concrete in the area where it bends and rebuilt it with angled engineered breakwall blocks. He cannot tell exactly what they are using. The activity numbers are way up in the Harbor because of the good weather so far. They have a new mayor, Timothy Manross, and Mr. Scruggs has become a new member on the Port Authority. This may help facilitate some changes.

Lake County Development Council – Larry Reichard: North Perry Village will be dedicating their new Veterans Memorial on Wednesday, July 4 at 2:30 p.m. He extended an invitation to the Committee to attend. Mr. Ekland and Mr. Troy will be there.

North Perry Village – Mark Cicero, Jr.: The Madison landowner law suite was filed against them. They have been using a haul road to move the sand to the east. This has helped to reduce the cost quite a bit. The Corps seems very pleased with this. They moved 20,000 yards of sand last time and close to the same this time. The beach is getting utilized and the park is beautiful. Their 32 boat and trailer parking spots were full and they were parking in the overflow.

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 22, 2012, but may be changed to September 26. The location is to be determined.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Scruggs moved to adjourn the June 20, 2012 meeting at 7:00 p.m. and Mr. Martin seconded the motion.

All voted "Aye".